

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| (51) International Patent Classification 5 : A61K 47/48, C07K 15/00 | | A1 | (11) International Publication Number: WO 93/13805 (43) International Publication Date: 22 July 1993 (22.07.93) |
| (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB93/00039 (22) International Filing Date: 11 January 1993 (11.01.93) (30) Priority data: 9200417.5 9 January 1992 (09.01.92) GB | | Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i> | |
| (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: BAGSHAWE, Kenneth, Dawson [GB/GB]; 115 George Street, London W1H 5TA (GB). (74) Agent: BASSETT, Richard, S.; Eric Potter Clarkson, St Mary's Court, St Mary's Gate, Nottingham NG1 1LE (GB). (81) Designated States: CA, GB, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). | | | |
| (54) Title: CYTOTOXIC DRUG THERAPY | | | |
| (57) Abstract A compound comprises a target cell-specific portion, such as an antibody specific to tumour cell antigens, and an inactivating portion, such as an enzyme, capable of converting a substance which in its native state is able to inhibit the effect of a cytotoxic agent into a substance which has less effect against said cytotoxic agent. The prolonged action of a cytotoxic agent at tumour sites is therefore possible whilst protecting normal tissues from the effects of the cytotoxic agent. | | | |

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|--|----|--------------------------|
| AT | Austria | FR | France | MR | Mauritania |
| AU | Australia | GA | Gabon | MW | Malawi |
| BB | Barbados | GB | United Kingdom | NL | Netherlands |
| BE | Belgium | GN | Guinea | NO | Norway |
| BF | Burkina Faso | GR | Greece | NZ | New Zealand |
| BG | Bulgaria | HU | Hungary | PL | Poland |
| BJ | Benin | IE | Ireland | PT | Portugal |
| BR | Brazil | IT | Italy | RO | Romania |
| CA | Canada | JP | Japan | RU | Russian Federation |
| CF | Central African Republic | KP | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | SD | Sudan |
| CG | Congo | KR | Republic of Korea | SE | Sweden |
| CH | Switzerland | KZ | Kazakhstan | SK | Slovak Republic |
| CI | Côte d'Ivoire | LJ | Liechtenstein | SN | Senegal |
| CM | Cameroon | LK | Sri Lanka | SU | Soviet Union |
| CS | Czechoslovakia | LU | Luxembourg | TD | Chad |
| CZ | Czech Republic | MC | Monaco | TG | Togo |
| DE | Germany | MG | Madagascar | UA | Ukraine |
| DK | Denmark | ML | Mali | US | United States of America |
| ES | Spain | MN | Mongolia | VN | Viet Nam |
| FI | Finland | | | | |

CYTOTOXIC DRUG THERAPY

This invention relates to potentially cytotoxic agents which may be targeted to selected cells, and is particularly concerned with the action of agents used in

5 the treatment of cancer.

Most forms of cancer tend to disseminate in the body at an early stage and the ultimate aim of cancer therapy is to achieve elimination of cancers, preferably without incurring serious toxic effects on host systems. Combinations of

10 cytotoxic agents have proved curative in a small range of relatively uncommon cancers, but single agents and combinations of them have failed to achieve major therapeutic benefits in most patients with the common cancers of lung, breast, colon, rectum, pancreas, prostate etc.

15 Cytotoxic agents can only be given by intermittent dose schedules because of their effects on normal tissues in which cell renewal is active such as haemopoietic tissues and epithelia of the alimentary tract. The rest period between treatments which is necessary to allow recovery of these normal tissues from the effects of the cytotoxic substances tends to be of much greater 20 duration than the period of administration of the cytotoxic agents.

Substances involved in cell division are the commonest targets for cytotoxic agents and amongst these are substances involved in the synthesis of nucleotides, the basic components of DNA and RNA. The enzymes

25 ribonucleotide reductase, dihydrofolate reductase and thymidine synthetase are typical targets. The enzyme dihydrofolate reductase acts on a dietary factor, folic acid, to produce the active co-enzyme 5,10-methenyltetrahydrofolate. The co-enzyme is required for one carbon transfer in various syntheses including that of pyrimidines required for DNA synthesis. The widely used drug 30 methotrexate (2,4-diamino-N¹⁰-methylpteroylglutamic acid) acts by binding

strongly to dihydrofolate reductase preventing regeneration of active tetrahydrofolate and thus interrupting DNA synthesis and leading to death of cells entering S phase of the cell cycle in which DNA is duplicated. Methotrexate is generally available, for example from Cyanamid Inc.

5

The drug trimetrexate (NSC 352122; 2,4-diamino-5-methyl-6-[3,4,5-trimethoxyanilino methyl]quinazoline) also acts by binding to dihydrofolate reductase but whereas methotrexate enters cells via the folate receptors, trimetrexate enters by alternative mechanism(s). The synthesis of

10 trimetrexate is disclosed by Baker (1967) in *Design of site-directed irreversible enzyme inhibitors*, Wiley, New York, and by Elslager *et al* (1974) *Lectures in heterocyclic chemistry*, Vol. 2, pp 97/5-133 (Castle & Townsend, ed), Hetero Corp, Oren, Utah. Trimetrexate is generally available from US Biosciences, One Tower Bridge, 100 Front Street, Suite 400, West Conshohocken, PA

15 19428, USA.

Methotrexate resembles natural folates in having a terminal glutamic acid moiety which can be cleaved by carboxypeptidase G2, whereas trimetrexate is not susceptible to the action of this enzyme (Bagshawe (1985) *Clinical Radiol.*

20 36, 545-551). We have previously reported that the action of trimetrexate on colonic cancer cells *in vitro* can be enhanced by the addition to the culture medium of a folate degrading enzyme carboxypeptidase G2 (Searle *et al* (1990) *Biochemical Pharmacol.* 39, 1787-1791. We have also shown that this enzyme retains activity when conjugated to antibodies or antibody fragments (Searle *et*

25 *al* (1988) *Bact. J. Cancer* 53, 377-384).

The biological effect of both methotrexate and trimetrexate can be reversed by administering an end product of the reaction they block, or by a more readily available analogue known as folinic acid [5-formyl tetrahydrofolic acid].

30 Folinic acid is widely available, for example as Leucovorin from Cyanamid

Inc, but also from Wellcome Inc, and Farmitalia. If folinic acid is given in sufficient dosage concurrently with methotrexate or trimetrexate their actions are blocked. It has been found useful in the treatment of some cancers to use folinic acid in conjunction with methotrexate in carefully timed and dose

5 controlled sequences. The methotrexate-folinic acid combination can improve the therapeutic ratio compared with methotrexate alone for certain cancers and is commonly known as 'rescue' therapy. It appears to depend on the ability of folinic acid to rescue normal clonogenic cells more readily than some cancer cells. One example is the successful use of methotrexate and folinic acid in the
10 treatment of some trophoblastic tumours (Bagshawe *et al* (1989) *Brit. J. Ob.*
& Gynaecol.). However this approach has proved useful in only a limited range of cancers and it seems likely that the time x concentration of folinic acid which is necessary to protect normal cells also protects some cancer cells from the action of the anti-folate.

15

Moreover the use of folinic acid in this way still necessitates intermittent administration of the methotrexate (MTX), whereas it would be advantageous to give the MTX more continuously over a prolonged period since it has been shown that the duration of action of anti-folates determines the degree of
20 cytotoxicity achieved. Similar considerations apply to other cytotoxic drugs.

One aspect of the present invention provides a compound comprising a target cell-specific portion and an inactivating portion capable of converting a substance which, in its native state, is able to inhibit the effect of a cytotoxic
25 agent into a substance which has less effect against said cytotoxic agent.

The inactivating portion may be directly or indirectly inactivating.

By "directly inactivating" we mean that the portion itself is able to inactivate
30 the said substance, for example by binding to it or by converting it into an

inactive form.

By "indirectly inactivating" we mean that delivery of the portion to the target cell results in inactivation of the cytotoxic agent. For example, the portion may 5 be a nucleic acid, either DNA or RNA, that encodes a polypeptide that is able to inactivate the said substance, for example by binding to it or by converting it into an inactive form.

The said polypeptide may be expressed intracellularly, may be expressed on the 10 cell surface, or may be secreted from the cell. By the term "polypeptide" we include proteins and glycoproteins.

Preferably, the inactivating portion is an enzymatically active portion.

15 Substances which "inhibit" the effect of a cytotoxic agent are those which diminish to a useful extent the ability of the cytotoxic agent to destroy target cells. Preferably, the said ability is reduced to substantially zero. Similarly, the inactivating portion will reduce such inhibition to a useful extent and will preferably reduce it to substantially zero.

20 The entity which is recognised by the target cell-specific portion may be any suitable entity which is expressed by tumour cells, virally-infected cells, pathogenic microorganisms, cells introduced as part of gene therapy or normal cells of the body which one wishes to destroy for a particular reason. The 25 entity should preferably be present or accessible to the targeting portion in significantly greater concentrations in or on cells which are to be destroyed than in any normal tissues of the host that cannot be functionally replaced by other therapeutic means. Use of a target expressed by a cancer cell would not be precluded, for example, by its equal or greater expression on an endocrine tissue or organ. In a life-saving situation the organ could be sacrificed 30

provided its function was either not essential to life, for example in the case of the testes, or could be supplied by hormone replacement therapy. Such considerations would apply, for instance, to the thyroid gland, parathyroids, adrenal cortex and ovaries.

5

The entity which is recognised will often be an antigen. Tumour-associated antigens, when they are expressed on the cell membrane or secreted into tumour extra-cellular fluid, lend themselves to the role of targets for antibodies.

- 10 The term "tumour" is to be understood as referring to all forms of neoplastic cell growth, including tumours of the lung, liver, blood cells (leukaemias), skin, pancreas, colon, prostate, uterus or breast.

- 15 The antigen-specific portion may be an entire antibody (usually, for convenience and specificity, a monoclonal antibody), a part or parts thereof (for example an Fab fragment or $F(ab')_2$) or a synthetic antibody or part thereof. A conjugate comprising only part of an antibody may be advantageous by virtue of optimizing the rate of clearance from the blood and may be less likely to undergo non-specific binding due to the Fc part. Suitable monoclonal
20 antibodies to selected antigens may be prepared by known techniques, for example those disclosed in "Monoclonal Antibodies: A manual of techniques", H. Zola (CRC Press, 1988) and in "Monoclonal Hybridoma Antibodies: Techniques and Applications", J.G.R. Hurrell (CRC Press, 1982). All references mentioned in this specification are incorporated herein by reference.
25 Bispecific antibodies may be prepared by cell fusion, by reassociation of monovalent fragments or by chemical cross-linking of whole antibodies, with one part of the resulting bispecific antibody being directed to the cell-specific antigen and the other to the enzyme. The bispecific antibody can be administered bound to the enzyme or it can be administered first, followed by
30 the enzyme. It is preferred that the bispecific antibodies are administered first,

- and after localization to the tumour cells, the enzyme is administered to be captured by the tumour localized antibody. Methods for preparing bispecific antibodies are disclosed in Corvalan *et al* (1987) *Cancer Immunol. Immunother.* 24, 127-132 and 133-137 and 138-143, and Gillsland *et al* (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85, 7719-7723.

- The variable heavy (V_H) and variable light (V_L) domains of the antibody are involved in antigen recognition, a fact first recognised by early protease digestion experiments. Further confirmation was found by "humanisation" of rodent antibodies. Variable domains of rodent origin may be fused to constant domains of human origin such that the resultant antibody retains the antigenic specificity of the rodent parented antibody (Morrison *et al* (1984) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81, 6851-6855).
- That antigenic specificity is conferred by variable domains and is independent of the constant domains is known from experiments involving the bacterial expression of antibody fragments, all containing one or more variable domains. These molecules include Fab-like molecules (Better *et al* (1988) *Science* 240, 1041); Fv molecules (Skerra *et al* (1988) *Science* 240, 1038); single-chain Fv (ScFv) molecules where the V_H and V_L partner domains are linked via a flexible oligopeptide (Bird *et al* (1988) *Science* 242, 423; Huston *et al* (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85, 5879) and single domain antibodies (dAbs) comprising isolated V domains (Ward *et al* (1989) *Nature* 341, 544). A general review of the techniques involved in the synthesis of antibody fragments which retain their specific binding sites is to be found in Winter & Milstein (1991) *Nature* 349, 293-299.

By "ScFv molecules" we mean molecules wherein the V_H and V_L partner domains are linked via a flexible oligopeptide.

- The advantages of using antibody fragments, rather than whole antibodies, are several-fold. The smaller size of the fragments may lead to improved pharmacological properties, such as better penetration of solid tissue. Effector functions of whole antibodies, such as complement binding, are removed.
- 5 Fab, Fv, ScFv and dAb antibody fragments can all be expressed in and secreted from *E. coli*, thus allowing the facile production of large amounts of the said fragments.

Whole antibodies, and $F(ab')_2$ fragments are "bivalent". By "bivalent" we
10 mean that the said antibodies and $F(ab')_2$ fragments have two antigen combining sites. In contrast, Fab, Fv, ScFv and dAb fragments are monovalent, having only one antigen combining sites. Fragmentation of intact immunoglobulins to produce $F(ab')_2$ fragments is disclosed by Harwood *et al* (1985) *Eur. J. Cancer Clin. Oncol.* 21, 1515-1522.

15

IgG class antibodies are preferred.

Alternatively, the entity which is recognised may or may not be antigenic but can be recognised and selectively bound to in some other way. For example,
20 it may be a characteristic cell surface receptor such as the receptor for melanocyte-stimulating hormone (MSH) which is expressed in high numbers in melanoma cells. The cell-specific portion may then be a compound or part thereof which specifically binds to the entity in a non-immune sense, for example as a substrate or analogue thereof for a cell-surface enzyme or as a
25 messenger.

The virally directed enzyme-pro-drug therapy (VDEPT) approach has been disclosed for the selective killing of neoplastic cells using the transcriptional differences between normal and neoplastic cells to selectively drive expression
30 of enzymes capable of converting a pro-drug into a cytotoxic drug (Huber *et*

al (1991) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **88**, 8039-8043).

Thus, by analogy, transcriptional differences between normal and neoplastic cells may be used to selectively drive the expression of an enzyme capable of
5 inactivating the inhibitor substances disclosed herein. It is preferred that the enzyme is secreted by the tumour cell, thus allowing free access to the inhibitor substance to be inactivated.

A difference in transcription between cells may be associated with tissue-specific promoters, or may be due to changes in activator or repressor molecules in the neoplastic state. Thus in one example, liver-associated albumin transcriptional regulatory sequences may be useful to drive the expression of inhibitor-inactivating proteins, including enzymes, in the treatment of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. More transcriptional
10 differences between normal and neoplastic cells are being discovered all the time, and it is believed that many of these differences may be exploited in the methods of the present invention.
15

Recombinant, replication-defective retroviruses which are suitable for delivering
20 the genetic constructs (ie promoter plus gene encoding inhibitor-inactivating protein) to target cells have been disclosed (Huber *et al* (1991) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **88**, 8039-8043).

Thus, a virus or other nucleoprotein particle, or liposome may provide a target
25 cell-specific portion suitable for delivering the indirectly inactivating portion to the said cell.

The inhibitor-inactivating protein may be an enzyme capable of metabolising the said inhibitor to an inactive form, or it may be a protein capable of binding
30 the said inhibitor and hence inactivating it.

Considerable work has already been carried out on antibodies and fragments thereof to tumour-associated antigens and antibodies or antibody fragments directed at carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) and antibodies or their fragments directed at human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) can be conjugated to 5 carboxypeptidase G2 and the resulting conjugate retains both antigen binding and catalytic function. Following intravenous injection of these conjugates they localise selectively in tumours expressing CEA or hCG respectively. Other antibodies are known to localise in tumours expressing the corresponding antigen. Such tumours may be primary and metastatic colorectal cancer (CEA) 10 and choriocarcinoma (hCG) in human patients or other forms of cancer. Although such antibody-enzyme conjugates may also localise in some normal tissues expressing the respective antigens, antigen expression is more diffuse in normal tissues. Such antibody-enzyme conjugates may be bound to cell membranes via their respective antigens or trapped by antigen secreted into the 15 interstitial space between cells.

Examples of tumour-associated, immune cell-associated and infection reagent-related antigens are given in Table 1.

20

Table 11. Tumour Associated Antigens

25

| <u>Antigen</u> | <u>Antibody</u> | <u>Existing Uses</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Carcino-embryonic Antigen | {C46 (Amersham) 85A12 (Unipath) | Imaging & Therapy of colon /rectum tumours. |

30

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Placental Alkaline Phosphatase | H17E2 (ICRF, Travers & Bodmer) | Imaging & Therapy of testicular and ovarian cancers. |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|

10

| | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------------|--|
| | Pan Carcinoma | NR-LU-10 (NeoRx Corporation) | Imaging & Therapy of various carcinomas incl. small cell lung cancer. |
| 5 | Polymorphic Epithelial Mucin (Human milk fat globule) | HMFG1 (Taylor-Papadimitriou, ICRF) | Imaging & Therapy of ovarian cancer, pleural effusions. |
| 10 | β -human Chorionic Gonadotropin choriocarcinoma | W14 | Targeting of enzyme (CPG2) to human xenograft in nude mice (Searle <i>et al</i> (1981) <i>Br.J. Cancer</i> 44 , 137-144). |
| 15 | A carbohydrate on Human Carcinomas | L6 (IgG2a)1 | Targeting of alkaline phosphatase (Senter <i>et al</i> (1988) <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> 85 , 4842-4846 |
| 20 | CD20 Antigen on B Lymphoma (normal and neoplastic) | 1F5 (IgG2a)2 | Targeting of alkaline phosphatase (Senter <i>et al</i> (1988) <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> 85 , 4842-4846 |
| 25 | | | |
| 1 | Hellström <i>et al</i> (1986) <i>Cancer Res.</i> 46 , 3917-3923 | | |
| 2 | Clarke <i>et al</i> (1985) <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.</i> 82 , 1766-1770 | | |

Other antigens include alphafoetoprotein, Ca-125 and prostate specific antigen.

2. Immune Cell Antigens

| | | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| | Pan T Lymphocyte Surface Antigen (CD3) | OKT-3 (Ortho) | As anti-rejection therapy for kidney transplants. |
| 5 | B-lymphocyte Surface Antigen (CD22) | RFB4 (Janossy, Royal Free Hospital) | Immunotoxin therapy of B cell lymphoma. |
| 10 | Pan T lymphocyte Surface Antigen (CD5) | H65 (Bodmer, Knowles ICRF, Licensed to Xoma Corp., USA) | Immunotoxin treatment of Acute Graft versus Host Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis. |

15 3. Infectious Agent-Related Antigens

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | Mumps virus- related | Anti-mumps polyclonal antibody | Antibody conjugated to Diphtheria toxin for treatment of mumps. |
| 20 | Hepatitis B Surface Antigen | Anti HBs Ag | Immunotoxin against Hepatoma. |

Before the administration of a conjugate with an antibody directed at a tumour associated antigen it may be advantageous to augment the expression of that antigen at tumour sites since this may increase the amount of conjugate retained at tumour sites. Several agents have been identified as able to increase antibody uptake including tumour necrosis factor (TNF) (Forsyth *et al* (1988) *Cancer Res.* **48**, 3607-3612) and interferons (Borden (1988) *J. Nat. Cancer Inst.* **80**, 148-149).

Thus it is preferred that the expression of the tumour cell antigen is enhanced using any one or more of the reagents prior to or during the administration of the compound of the invention.

- 5 Uptake of an antibody, antibody fragment or any uptake thereof may also be modified by vasoactive agents through alterations in tumour blood flow or altering capillary permeability. Such agents include histamine and interleukin-2 (Hennigan *et al* (1991) *Brit. J. Cancer* 64, 872-874), flavone acetic acid (Bibby *et al* (1989) *J. Natl. Cancer Institute* 81, 216-219) but other agents may be
10 used to alter tumour blood flow or capillary permeability so as to favour increased retention of enzyme at tumour sites or inhibit penetration of tumour sites by the protecting metabolite.

- 15 Thus it is further preferred that tumour blood flow is altered using one or more of the reagents prior to or during the administration of the compounds of the invention.

- 20 The substance which in its native state is able to inhibit the effect of a cytotoxic agent may be any sufficiently non-toxic substance which may be converted into a substance which has less effect on said cytotoxic agent. A suitable compound is folinic acid. Folinic acid reverses the biological effect of the cytotoxic agent trimetrexate, for example, which acts on the enzyme dihydrofolate reductase. Folinic acid is deglutamated and rendered inactive against trimetrexate by the enzyme carboxypeptidase G2 and other deglutamating enzymes.
25

- The same principle may be applied to other anti-cytotoxic agent substances. For example, thymidine blocks the effect of a cytotoxic agent, such as CB3717 and ICI D1694 (Jodrell *et al* 1991, *BJC* 64, 833-8; Jones *et al* (1986) *J. Med. Chem.* 29, 468-472), which acts on the enzyme thymidylate synthetase. Hence
30 a thymidine degrading enzyme (such as dihydrothymine dehydrogenase,

Shiotani & Weber 1981 *J. Biol. Chem.* **256**, 219-224) or thymidine kinase (Shiotani *et al* (1989) *Cancer Res.* **49**, 1090-1094) may be used as the inactivating portion of the compound of the invention to render the thymidine ineffective against the cytotoxic agent.

5

Similar considerations relate to other agents which interfere with the normal processes of nucleotide incorporation into DNA or RNA since these are potentially reversible by the normal metabolite which in turn can be degraded by an appropriate enzyme targeted to tumour sites.

10

For instance, it has been shown that the cytotoxic effects of the widely used cytotoxic 5-fluorouracil (available from Roche Products Inc) can be at least partly attenuated by uridine (Groeningen *et al* (1989) *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* **81**, 157-162). It follows that conjugation of an antitumour antibody with a uridine

15 degrading enzyme can be used in conjunction with 5-fluorouracil and uridine. Such a combination would be particularly relevant in colorectal and breast carcinoma for which 5-fluorouracil is one of the most effective cytotoxic agents. Such a combination of agents may be further combined with folinic acid which augments the cytotoxicity of 5-fluorouracil or additionally with
20 thymidine and a thymidine inactivating enzyme.

The inactivating portion of the compound will be chosen by reference to the anti-cytotoxic agent substance.

25 Enzymes other than carboxypeptidase G2 and its equivalents can be used. They should be specific for the targeted metabolite but may be of human or non-human origin.

It may not be necessary to use a conventional enzyme. Antibodies with
30 catalytic capacity have been developed (Tramontano *et al* *Science* **234**, 1566-

1570) and are known as 'abzymes'. These have the potential advantage of being able to be humanized to reduce their immunogenicity.

- Enzymes derived from human lymphocytes and able to degrade thymidine have
- 5 been disclosed. (Schiotani *et al* (1989) *Cancer Res.* **49**, 1090-1094). A dihydrothymine dehydrogenase and thymidine kinase can be used in the system of the type herein disclosed for use in conjunction with inhibitors of thymidine synthetase.
- 10 Thymidine degrading and phosphorylating enzymes can be used as an additional element in anti-folate therapy as herein disclosed by blocking the thymidine salvage pathway. They can also be used in conjunction with uridine catalysing enzymes used with the cytotoxic drug 5-fluorouracil.
- 15 The bacterial enzymes carboxypeptidase G1 and G2 (CPG1 and CPG2) degrade folates including methotrexate by cleavage of the terminal glutamic acid. The actions of the two enzymes are thought to be the same. The following description of preferred aspects of the invention refers to CPG2 but is equally applicable to CPG1 and to any other enzymes acting on the same substrates,
- 20 and to abzymes acting on the same substrates.

The isolation, purification and some of the properties of carboxypeptidase G2 from *Pseudomonas sp.* strain RS-16 have been disclosed by Sherwood *et al* (1984) *Eur. J. Biochem.* **148**, 447-453. The cloning of the gene encoding the

25 said carboxypeptidase G2, its nucleotide sequence and its expression in *E. coli* have been disclosed by Minton *et al* (1984) *Gene* **31**, 31-38 and Minton *et al* (1983) *J. Bacteriol.* **156**, 1222-1227. CP2G2 is available from the Division of Biotechnology, Centre for Applied Microbiological Research, Porton Down, Salisbury, UK. Carboxypeptidase G1 (CPG1) is disclosed by Chabner *et al*

30 (1972) *Cancer Res.* **32**, 2114-2119.

It is likely that the inactivating portion of the compound, when it is an enzymatically active portion, will be enzymatically active in isolation from the cell-specific portion but it is necessary only for it to be enzymatically active when (a) it is in combination with the cell-specific portion and (b) the 5 compound is attached to or adjacent target cells.

- The two portions of the compound of the invention may be linked together by any of the conventional ways of cross-linking polypeptides, such as those generally described in O'Sullivan *et al* (1979) *Anal. Biochem.* 100, 100-108.
- 10 For example, the antibody portion may be enriched with thiol groups and the enzyme portion reacted with a bifunctional agent capable of reacting with those thiol groups, for example the N-hydroxysuccinimide ester of iodoacetic acid (NHIA) or N-succinimidyl-3-(2-pyridyldithio)propionate (SPDP). Amide and thioether bonds, for example achieved with m-maleimidobenzoyl-N-15 hydroxysuccinimide ester, are generally more stable *in vivo* than disulphide bonds.

It may not be necessary for the whole enzyme to be present in the compound of the invention but, of course, the catalytic portion must be present.

- 20 Alternatively, the compound may be produced as a fusion compound by recombinant DNA techniques whereby a length of DNA comprises respective regions encoding the two portions of the compound of the invention either adjacent one another or separated by a region encoding a linker peptide which 25 does not destroy the desired properties of the compound. Conceivably, the two portions of the compound may overlap wholly or partly. The antibody component of the fusion must be represented by at least one binding site. Examples of the construction of antibody (or antibody fragment)-enzyme fusions are disclosed by Neuberger *et al* (1984) *Nature* 312, 604.

The DNA is then expressed in a suitable host to produce a polypeptide comprising the compound of the invention. Thus, the DNA encoding the polypeptide constituting the compound of the invention may be used in accordance with known techniques, appropriately modified in view of the 5 teachings contained herein, to construct an expression vector, which is then used to transform an appropriate host cell for the expression and production of the polypeptide of the invention. Such techniques include those disclosed in US Patent Nos. 4,440,859 issued 3 April 1984 to Rutter *et al*, 4,530,901 issued 23 July 1985 to Weissman, 4,582,800 issued 15 April 1986 to Crowl, 4,677,063 10 issued 30 June 1987 to Mark *et al*, 4,678,751 issued 7 July 1987 to Goeddel, 4,704,362 issued 3 November 1987 to Itakura *et al*, 4,710,463 issued 1 December 1987 to Murray, 4,757,006 issued 12 July 1988 to Toole, Jr. *et al*, 4,766,075 issued 23 August 1988 to Goeddel *et al* and 4,810,648 issued 7 March 1989 to Stalker, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

15

The DNA encoding the polypeptide constituting the compound of the invention may be joined to a wide variety of other DNA sequences for introduction into an appropriate host. The companion DNA will depend upon the nature of the host, the manner of the introduction of the DNA into the host, and whether 20 episomal maintenance or integration is desired.

Generally, the DNA is inserted into an expression vector, such as a plasmid, in proper orientation and correct reading frame for expression. If necessary, the DNA may be linked to the appropriate transcriptional and translational 25 regulatory control nucleotide sequences recognised by the desired host, although such controls are generally available in the expression vector. The vector is then introduced into the host through standard techniques. Generally, not all of the hosts will be transformed by the vector. Therefore, it will be necessary to select for transformed host cells. One selection technique involves 30 incorporating into the expression vector a DNA sequence, with any necessary

control elements, that codes for a selectable trait in the transformed cell, such as antibiotic resistance. Alternatively, the gene for such selectable trait can be on another vector, which is used to co-transform the desired host cell.

- 5 Host cells that have been transformed by the recombinant DNA of the invention are then cultured for a sufficient time and under appropriate conditions known to those skilled in the art in view of the teachings disclosed herein to permit the expression of the polypeptide, which can then be recovered.
- 10 Many expression systems are known, including bacteria (for example *E. coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*), yeasts (for example *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*), filamentous fungi (for example *Aspergillus*), plant cells, animal cells and insect cells.
- 15 The vectors include a procaryotic replicon, such as the ColE1 *ori*, for propagation in a procaryote, even if the vector is to be used for expression in other, non-procaryotic, cell types. The vectors can also include an appropriate promoter such as a procaryotic promoter capable of directing the expression (transcription and translation) of the genes in a bacterial host cell, such as *E. coli*, transformed therewith.
- 20

- A promoter is an expression control element formed by a DNA sequence that permits binding of RNA polymerase and transcription to occur. Promoter sequences compatible with exemplary bacterial hosts are typically provided in
- 25 plasmid vectors containing convenient restriction sites for insertion of a DNA segment of the present invention.

- Typical procaryotic vector plasmids are pUC18, pUC19, pBR322 and pBR329 available from Biorad Laboratories, (Richmond, CA, USA) and p*Trc*99A and
- 30 pKK223-3 available from Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ, USA.

A typical mammalian cell vector plasmid is pSVL available from Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ, USA. This vector uses the SV40 late promoter to drive expression of cloned genes, the highest level of expression being found in T antigen-producing cells, such as COS-1 cells.

5

An example of an inducible mammalian expression vector is pMSG, also available from Pharmacia. This vector uses the glucocorticoid-inducible promoter of the mouse mammary tumour virus long terminal repeat to drive expression of the cloned gene.

10

Useful yeast plasmid vectors are pRS403-406 and pRS413-416 and are generally available from Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA. Plasmids pRS403, pRS404, pRS405 and pRS406 are Yeast Integrating plasmids (YIps) and incorporate the yeast selectable markers *his3*, *trp1*, *leu2* 15 and *ura3*. Plasmids pRS413-416 are Yeast Centromere plasmids (YCps).

A variety of methods have been developed to operatively link DNA to vectors via complementary cohesive termini. For instance, complementary homopolymer tracts can be added to the DNA segment to be inserted to the 20 vector DNA. The vector and DNA segment are then joined by hydrogen bonding between the complementary homopolymeric tails to form recombinant DNA molecules.

Synthetic linkers containing one or more restriction sites provide an alternative 25 method of joining the DNA segment to vectors. The DNA segment, generated by endonuclease restriction digestion as described earlier, is treated with bacteriophage T4 DNA polymerase or *E. coli* DNA polymerase I, enzymes that remove protruding, 3'-single-stranded termini with their 3'-5'-exonucleolytic activities, and fill in recessed 3'-ends with their polymerizing activities.

30

The combination of these activities therefore generates blunt-ended DNA segments. The blunt-ended segments are then incubated with a large molar excess of linker molecules in the presence of an enzyme that is able to catalyze the ligation of blunt-ended DNA molecules, such as bacteriophage T4 DNA

- 5 ligase. Thus, the products of the reaction are DNA segments carrying polymeric linker sequences at their ends. These DNA segments are then cleaved with the appropriate restriction enzyme and ligated to an expression vector that has been cleaved with an enzyme that produces termini compatible with those of the DNA segment.

10

Synthetic linkers containing a variety of restriction endonuclease sites are commercially available from a number of sources including International Biotechnologies Inc, New Haven, CN, USA.

- 15 A desirable way to modify the DNA encoding the polypeptide of the invention is to use the polymerase chain reaction as disclosed by Saiki *et al* (1988) *Science* 239, 487-491.

- 20 In this method the DNA to be enzymatically amplified is flanked by two specific oligonucleotide primers which themselves become incorporated into the amplified DNA. The said specific primers may contain restriction endonuclease recognition sites which can be used for cloning into expression vectors using methods known in the art.

- 25 Exemplary genera of yeast contemplated to be useful in the practice of the present invention are *Pichia*, *Saccharomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Candida*, *Torulopsis*, *Hansenula*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, *Citeromyces*, *Pachysolen*, *Debaromyces*, *Metschunikowia*, *Rhodosporidium*, *Leucosporidium*, *Botryoascus*, *Sporidiobolus*, *Endomycopsis*, and the like. Preferred genera are those selected
30 from the group consisting of *Pichia*, *Saccharomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Yarrowia*

and *Hansenula*. Examples of *Saccharomyces* are *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces italicus* and *Saccharomyces rouxii*. Examples of *Kluyveromyces* are *Kluyveromyces fragilis* and *Kluyveromyces lactis*. Examples of *Hansenula* are *Hansenula polymorpha*, *Hansenula anomala* and *Hansenula capsulata*.

- 5 *Yarrowia lipolytica* is an example of a suitable *Yarrowia* species.

Methods for the transformation of *S. cerevisiae* are taught generally in EP 251 744, EP 258 067 and WO 90/01063, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

10

Suitable promoters for *S. cerevisiae* include those associated with the *PGK1* gene, *GAL1* or *GAL10* genes, *CYC1*, *PHO5*, *TRP1*, *ADH1*, *ADH2*, the genes for glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, hexokinase, pyruvate decarboxylase, phosphofructokinase, triose phosphate isomerase, 15 phosphoglucose isomerase, glucokinase, α -mating factor pheromone, α -mating factor pheromone, the *PRB1* promoter, the *GUT2* promoter, and hybrid promoters involving hybrids of parts of 5' regulatory regions with parts of 5' regulatory regions of other promoters or with upstream activation sites (eg the promoter of EP-A-258 067).

20

The transcription termination signal is preferably the 3' flanking sequence of a eukaryotic gene which contains proper signals for transcription termination and polyadenylation. Suitable 3' flanking sequences may, for example, be those of the gene naturally linked to the expression control sequence used, ie 25 may correspond to the promoter. Alternatively, they may be different in which case the termination signal of the *S. cerevisiae AHD1* gene is preferred.

According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of destroying target cells in a host, the method comprising 30 administering to the host (i) a compound according to the present invention, (ii)

a cytotoxic agent and (iii) a substance which in its native state is capable of inhibiting the effect of said cytotoxic agent and which can be converted by said inactivating portion into a substance which has less effect on the cytotoxic agent.

5

Preferably, the compound of the invention is administered and, once there is an optimum balance between the tumour to normal cell ratio of the compound and the absolute level of compound associated with the tumour, the cytotoxic agent together with the substance capable of blocking the effect of the cytotoxic

10 agent are administered. However, an alternative method of administration would be possible. The amount of the compound of the invention circulating in the blood may be determined by measuring the activity of the enzymatic portion.

15 Preferably, the present invention provides a method of treating a mammal harbouring a tumour. Suitably, the mammal is first prepared for tumour therapy by administering a compound according to the present invention and allowing the ratio of compound bound to target cells to compound not bound to target cells to reach a desired value. The method then further comprises

20 administering to the mammal a cytotoxic agent and a substance which in its native state is capable of inhibiting the effect of said cytotoxic agent from which a substance which has less effect on the cytotoxic agent can be generated by the inactivating portion of the said compound.

25 The compounds of the invention are administered in any suitable way, usually parenterally, for example intravenously, intraperitoneally or intra-vesically, in standard sterile, non-pyrogenic formulations of diluents and carriers, for example isotonic saline (when administered intravenously). The present invention therefore provides a means to allow continuous action of a cytotoxic agent at tumour sites whilst protecting normal tissues from the effects of the

30

cytotoxic agent expressed by the target cancer. The substance which in its native state is capable of inhibiting the effect of the cytotoxic agent is given at a dose level sufficient to protect the normal tissues. However, the substance reaching tumour sites is inactivated before it can enter the cells and protect
5 them from the cytotoxic agent. In this way, normal tissues are protected from the effects of the cytotoxic agent whereas the protective molecule is rapidly degraded at tumour sites.

The cytotoxic agent and inhibitor are administered by any of the routes
10 described for the compounds of the invention, and could also be administered orally.

It has also been shown that antibody-enzyme conjugates reach their peak concentration in tumours generally within 24 hours and that enzyme activity
15 persists at tumour sites for up to 7-8 days. Antibody-enzyme conjugates also persist in blood and non-tumour tissues for several days. Enzyme in non-tumour tissues will degrade the inhibitor substance and thus tend to diminish its protective effect or increase the requirement for it. Clearance of enzyme from the blood can be accelerated or the enzyme can be inactivated without
20 significantly altering enzyme levels in tumour sites by several techniques. These techniques may be employed usefully and additionally to the other components.

Although the antibodies or antibody fragments used in the antibody-enzyme
25 conjugate can be 'humanised' to reduce their immunogenicity (as disclosed by Morrison *et al* (1984) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81, 6851-6855 and Riechmann *et al* (1988) *Nature* 332, 323-327), the bacterial enzymes CPG1 and CPG2 have no human analogue and for repeated use in man it may be desirable to modify them so as to reduce their immunogenicity or to employ means to
30 induce immunosuppression or immune tolerance.

Techniques for reducing the immunogenicity of foreign proteins, applicable to antibody-enzyme conjugates, include that of conjugation to forms of polyethylene glycol (Wilkinson *et al* (1987) *J. Immunol.* 139, 326-331).

- 5 Alternatively, or additionally, the problem of immunogenicity may be overcome by administering immunosuppressors or immune tolerance inducing agents. Cyclosporin and FK506 are widely used drugs to achieve immunosuppression in tissue transplantation. Cyclosporin has been shown to delay host antibody response to foreign protein (Lederman *et al* (1988) *Br. J. Cancer* 58, 562-566 and 654-657). Tolerance to foreign proteins when the host encounters the foreign problem for the first time after receiving an antibody directed at the CD4 epitope on lymphocytes has been disclosed (Waldman *et al* (1988) pp 16-30 in *Progress in Allergy* (Shizata & Woksman, Eds, New York). Further means to achieve this have been described elsewhere and may change as 10 improvements occur in control of host antibody responses to foreign antigens. Catalytic antibodies (abzymes) may be 'humanized' to reduce or remove their 15 immunogenicity.

- When an antibody directed at a tumour associated antigen or an antibody-enzyme conjugate is injected into an appropriate tumour bearing host, only a small fraction of the antibody or conjugate localises at the tumour site and most of it remains in blood and other normal tissues for several days. Thus, although tumour concentration of the enzyme will be higher than in normal tissues, the volume of normal tissues is much greater. Thus, to minimize the amount of enzyme residual in normal tissues and blood it may be desirable to use the methods of the present invention in conjunction with the methods disclosed in WO 89/10140; Bagshawe (1989) *Brit. J. Cancer* 60, 275-281; and Sharma *et al* (1990) *Brit. J. Cancer* 61, 659-662 for inactivating and clearing 20 25 excess antibody-enzyme conjugate from the blood.

In attempting to achieve eradication of cancers it may not be possible to avoid suppression of haemopoietic function although for a given effect on a tumour target (myelosuppression) it is expected to be much less with the system described herein. Similarly, for a given degree of myelosuppression a much 5 greater tumour effect is expected. Growth factors acting on haemopoietic tissues may therefore be usefully employed in combination with the system described herein.

The system described herein may be used in conjunction with other forms of 10 therapy. These include conventional cytotoxic agents, and use of multiple enzyme delivery to inactivate more than one metabolite.

Similarly, an enzyme delivered to tumour sites by an antibody may function both to activate a pro-drug and to inactivate a metabolite which protects normal 15 tissues. Carboxypeptidase G2 as disclosed herein inactivates folinic acid at tumour sites to leave the tumour cells unprotected against trimetrexate. The same tumour located enzyme can activate a benzoic acid pro-drug to form a cytotoxic mustard (as disclosed by Bagshawe (1989) *Brit. J. Cancer* 60, 275-281).

20 Of course, one or more enzymes may be directed to the tumour sites either by the same or a different antibody, and such that one or more prodrugs are converted to an active drug, and that one or more protective agents are degraded at the tumour site. Thus, two or more enzymes may be joined to the 25 same antibody.

Since antibody-enzyme conjugates generally reach their maximum concentration at tumour sites within 12-24 hours and since they may take several days to clear from plasma and other body fluids, it has also been shown that it is 30 advantageous to accelerate the clearance of antibody-enzyme conjugate and to

inactivate the specific enzyme present in the blood. Several means by which this may be achieved have been described (WO 89/10140).

- The antibody used for clearing or inactivating the antibody-enzyme conjugate
- 5 can be directed towards the antigen binding site on the antitumour antibody, or the active site of the enzyme, or any other site on the antibody-enzyme conjugate. Such antibodies may have additional galactose residues or other sugars added to accelerate clearance or may be desialylated. Galactosylation of the antibody results in its rapid clearance from the blood through take-up by
- 10 galactose receptors on hepatocytes. Alternatively, or additionally, the antibody-enzyme conjugate is galactosylated, and given after the hepatic galactose receptors have been blocked by asialo-bovine submaxillary gland mucoprotein or antibody directed at hepatic galactose receptor or other molecule with high affinity for galactose receptor. The blocking substance is maintained in plasma
- 15 for a period of up to 24 hours so that the antibody-enzyme complex localises at tumour sites but following cessation of galactose receptor blockade, the galactosylated antibody-enzyme is quickly cleared via the available galactose receptors.
- 20 The present invention will now be illustrated by way of the following Examples and Figures with specific references to cytotoxic therapy with trimetrexate and folinic acid rescue.

- Figure 1 shows the structures of trimetrexate, methotrexate, folinic acid,
- 25 CB3717 and ICI D1694.

- Figure 2 is a diagrammatic representation of the invention wherein the target-cell specific portion is an antibody and is coupled to carboxypeptidase G2; folinic acid is the inhibitor of a cytotoxic agent; and trimetrexate is the said
- 30 cytotoxic agent.

Example 1: Cytotoxic therapy with trimetrexate and folinic acid rescue

The present invention may provide a means to allow more continuous anti-folate action at tumour sites whilst protecting normal tissues from anti-folate

5 effects. The first step is to initiate immunosuppressive or immune tolerance inducing agents and this will normally occur not less than 2 days before the compound of the present invention is administered. If the antibody-enzyme conjugate is non-immunogenic this step is omitted. An antibody-CPG2 conjugate, or antibody fragment conjugated chemically or by recombinant DNA
10 technology to CPG2 or similar enzyme is given by intravenous or other appropriate route; the antibody is directed at a tumour antigen expressed by the target cancer. After several hours has been allowed for the conjugate to localise at tumour sites a second antibody is given. This may be directed at the active site on the enzyme in which case additional galactose residues are
15 attached to the second antibody to ensure its rapid clearance via hepatocyte galactose receptors. Alternative mechanisms for rapid clearance of the conjugate from non-tumour sites have been described. When enzyme levels have fallen to very low or undetectable levels in plasma, trimetrexate is given by bolus or by continuous infusions with the aim of maintaining a constant
20 plasma concentration. Concurrently with the trimetrexate, folinic acid is given by intravenous infusion at a dose level sufficient to protect the normal tissues from trimetrexate toxicity. Folinic acid reaching tumour sites where CPG2 is located is deglutamated as is folic acid and rendered inactive before it can enter cells and protect them from trimetrexate. In this way normal tissues may be
25 protected by folinic acid from the action of trimetrexate whereas the protective molecule is rapidly degraded at tumour sites. Other antifolate drugs which, like trimetrexate are not degraded by CPG2, may be substituted for trimetrexate.

30 Since the trimetrexate blockade of dihydrofolate reductase may be, at least

partially, bypassed by endogenous sources of thymidine, a thymidine-degrading enzyme might also be targeted to tumour sites by antibody or other ligand.

It is recognised that distribution of the antibody-enzyme conjugates in the
5 tumour will not be uniform since there is heterogeneity in the expression of tumour-associated antigens on cell membranes. Secretion of an antigen into extracellular space results in more uniform distribution of target antigen and secreted antigen forms complexes with targeted antibody-enzyme conjugate. Internalisation of the antibody-enzyme conjugate by tumour cells is not
10 necessary and may be undesirable.

It is evident that the method according to the present invention differs from conventional cytotoxic chemotherapy with methotrexate and folinic acid rescue by the introduction of a means of degrading the normal metabolite (folic acid)
15 and the rescue agent (folinic acid) but not the folic acid antagonist at tumour sites.

Loss of enzyme from tumour sites by dissociation of the antibody from target antigen and by biodegradation are likely to result after some days in reduced
20 levels of enzyme at those sites. The rate of fall in enzyme activity will vary with tumour and enzyme type; carboxypeptidase activity has been detected in human colonic carcinoma xenografted tumours in nude mice 7 days after administration conjugated to an antibody directed at CEA. It should therefore be possible to continue trimetrexate therapy for about 5 days with an
25 interruption about 24-48 hours, during which time further antibody-enzyme conjugate could be given and cleared from non-tumour sites with further cycles to follow provided there is effective immunological control or avoidance of host antibody response.

30 Thus although the proposal would not result in uninterrupted therapy the ratio

of treatment period to treatment free period in conventional therapy of about 1:7 would be improved to about 2-3:1.

Example 2: Cytotoxic therapy with thymidylate synthetase inhibitors and
5 thymidine rescue

The same principle may be applied to other anti-metabolite therapies. For instance, considerable effort has been directed in recent years to the development of agents that block the key enzyme thymidylate synthetase such

10 as CB3717 and ICI D1694 (Jodrell *et al* 1991, *BJC* 64, 833-8). Such agents are likely to suffer the same limitations as conventional cytotoxic agents in that they also block thymidylate synthetase in normal cells. Their action is reversible by thymidine. Thymidine administration may therefore be used to protect normal tissues from thymidylate synthetase inhibitors whilst the
15 protective effect of the thymidine and endogenous thymidine may be limited at tumour sites by a thymidine degrading enzyme, such as dihydrothymine dehydrogenase, or thymidine kinase which would inhibit entry of thymidine into the tumour cells. The thymidine inhibitor enzyme or agent is delivered by antibody or other appropriate vector.

20

Dihydrothymine dehydrogenase can be obtained from normal human lymphocytes (Shiotani & Weber 1989 *Cancer Res.* 49, 1090-1094) and therefore has the advantage that an antibody-enzyme conjugate of low immunogenicity may be produced by its conjugation to a human or 'humanised'

25 antibody.

It is also envisaged that both an antifolate agent and an anti-thymidine agent could be used together with the appropriate inhibitors and inhibitor degrading enzymes resulting in an effective cytotoxic combination.

Example 3: Combination therapy with ADEPT

The ADEPT concept uses an antibody-enzyme conjugate to generate a cytotoxic drug from an inactive precursor at tumour sites. The present invention can be 5 used in conjunction with ADEPT thus resulting in a form of combination chemotherapy, both active drugs being confined largely to the tumour site but employing the same, or different, enzymes to produce the active agent in one case and to destroy a protective agent in the other.

- 10 In the case of ADEPT treatment, nude mice bearing human choriocarcinoma (CC3) tumours received 29 units of CPG2 conjugated to anti-HCG (W14 Fab₂, as disclosed in WO 88/07378), and after 24 or 48 hours received pro-drug (41 μM/kg). The amount of protective agent is adjusted to give an optimal protective effect in the absence of inhibitory agent.

15

Example 4: Treatment of patient with hepatic metastases and abdominal adenocarcinoma

- Starting on day minus-2 a patient with large hepatic metastases and recurrent 20 abdominal adenocarcinoma of the colon received the immunosuppressive agent cyclosporin by continuous intravenous infusion. On day 0 he received a compound containing the F(ab')₂ portion of a monoclonal antibody known as A₅B₇ which binds carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) chemically conjugated to carboxypeptidase G2 a bacterial enzyme. The amount of enzyme given was 25 20000 enzyme units (10,000 U/m²) by intravenous infusion over 2 hours. 24 hours later (day 1) the enzyme was still available in his blood plasma at 1.0 unit/ml and he then received 80 mg (40 mg/m²) of monoclonal antibody SB43 which had been galactosylated to accelerate its clearance. This was administered over 24 hours by continuous intravenous infusion and during the 30 last hour of the infusion 10 mg of non-galactosylated SB43 was added to the

infusate. Following completion of the SB43 infusion (day 2) when CPG2 activity was no longer detectable in plasma, trimetrexate was given in 5% dextrose by intravenous bolus. Infusion of folinic acid 100 mg commenced at this time by continuous 24 hour infusion. Trimetrexate was continued daily for
5 4 days (day 2, 3, 4, 5).

The cycle starting with the antibody enzyme conjugate restarted on days 7 and 14. Toxicity was confined to a temporary rise in serum creatine, a well-known complication of therapy with cyclosporin. The host antibody response to the
10 tumour antibodies and bacterial enzymes was not detectable until after completion of the three cycles of treatment.

The peripheral blood white cell and platelet counts remained at normal or supranormal levels during and after this treatment. Subsequent patients receive
15 escalating doses of trimetrexate or reduced doses of folinic acid.

The monoclonal antibody A₅B₇, raised in mice to carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), is available from Cancer Research Campaign Technology, Cambridge House, 5-10 Cambridge Terrace, Regent's Park, London NW1 4JL, and was
20 prepared by the method disclosed by Harwood *et al* (1986) *Brit. J. Cancer* 54, 75-82 and Example 5. The murine monoclonal antibody SB43 is available from Cancer Research Campaign Technology and was prepared by the method disclosed by Sharma *et al* (1990) *Brit. J. Cancer* 61, 659-662 and Example 8.

25 Example 5: Preparation of a monoclonal antibody reactive against carcinoembryonic antigen

Purified CEA was prepared from metastases of colonic tumour. Radio-iodination to a specific activity of 6 $\mu\text{Ci}\mu\text{g}^{-1}$ was carried out by the iodogen
30 method. Dilution buffer was prepared as a 0.15M sodium phosphate buffer,

pH 7.4, containing 0.1% bovine serum albumin. The studies at low ionic strength were carried out in 0.02M Tris-HCl buffer at pH 7.4.

- Immunisation schedule: Monoclonal antibody A₅B₇ was raised against purified, heat-treated CEA using the following procedure. One milligram of purified CEA was heated at 85°C for 35 min in 0.05 M phosphate buffer (pH 7) at a concentration of 1 mg ml⁻¹. After mixing with 1 ml of 10% aqueous potassium aluminium sulphate (alum), the pH was adjusted with constant stirring to 6.5-7 by dropwise addition of NaOH solution. After stirring at room temperature for 30 min the resulting precipitate was washed three times in saline. It was then mixed with 10¹⁰ formalised *Bordetella pertussis* (kindly supplied by Wellcome Research Laboratories). Three different immunisation schedules were used.
- 15 Spleen cells from the immunised mice were then fused with either SP2/0-Ag 14 or P3-NS/1-Ag 4-1 myeloma cells (Flow Laboratories, UK) and the hybridomas producing anti-CEA cloned by single cell transfer.

Example 6: Preparation of F(ab')₂ fragments of A₅B₇

- 20 The monoclonal anti-CEA (A₅B₇) used in this study has been described previously and chosen for its low cross-reactivity with NCA and its stability on immunopurification and radiolabelling. F(ab')₂ fragments were prepared by the method Lamoyi and Nisonoff (1983) *J. Immunol. Methods* 56, 235-243. After 25 separation of the digest mixture on Sephadryl S-200, the fractions were analysed by SDS-PAGE using a 7.5% gel. The fraction containing the F(ab')₂ was concentrated and dialysed against 0.15M phosphate buffer, pH 7. Both intact A₅B₇ and the fragment were shown to be immunologically active and relatively homogeneous by electroblotting of the SDS gel onto nitrocellulose 30 paper and overlaying with ¹²⁵I-labelled CEA. Intact A₅B₇ and its F(ab')₂

fragment were radiolabelled by the chloramine T method to specific activities of 5.6 and 5.2 μ Ci/ μ g respectively. Both labelled preparations were shown to retain immunological activity by solid-phase radioimmunoassay using CEA coupled to amino-cellulose (Rogers *et al* (1983) *Eur. J. Cancer Clin. Oncol.* 19, 629-639). An excess of 60% activity was retained in each case.

Example 7: Conjugation of A₅B₇-F(ab')₂ to CPG2

To a solution of CPG2 (2.15 mg) in phosphate buffer (2.5 ml, pH = 7.6, 10 containing 1 mM EDTA) was added 4-(p-maleimidophenyl) butyric acid N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (138 μ g) in DMF (13.5 μ l) corresponding to a 15 molar excess of ester over carboxypeptidase. The solution was left for 2 hours after which time excess ester was removed by gel filtration (PD10 column), eluted with 3.2 cm phosphate/EDTA buffer) - Solution 1.

15 F(ab')₂-A₅B₇ (2.6 mg) in phosphate/EDTA buffer (1.2 ml) was treated with S-acetyl thioglycol acid-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (SATA) (90 μ g) in DMF (10 μ l) and the mixture left for 1 hour at room temperature. Excess SATA was removed by gel filtration (PD10 column, eluted with 3.2 cm phosphate buffer).

20 Thirty minutes before use, a solution of NH₄OH (3.47 g neutralised with Na₃PO₄H and NaOH solution and made up to 100 ml with H₂O containing 930 mg EDTA) (320 μ l) was added - Solution 2.

25 The solutions 1 and 2 were then mixed and allowed to stand at 4°C overnight. After concentration (ten-fold) (Minicon) the conjugate was isolated by gel filtration (S-12 column) on FPLC (Pharmacia). The conjugate was filtered through a Millipore 0.22 μ m filter. The protein concentration was measured and the enzyme activity measured on spectrophotometric assay before use.

Example 8: Production of a monoclonal antibody reactive against CPG2

A monoclonal antibody (SB43) raised against CPG2 is used for making

bispecific antibody (see next Example) and for clearance and inactivation of

- 5 residual enzyme activity at non-tumour sites.

The monoclonal antibody was made in the following way. Balb/C mice (6-8

weeks old) were immunised with 50 µg CPG2 i.p. in incomplete Freund's adjuvant followed by two injections of CPG2 in complete Freund's adjuvant (50

- 10 µg CPG2 each, i.p.) at monthly intervals and with two daily injections (50 µg and 100 µg in PBS, i.v.) 2 days before fusion. Immune spleen cells were fused with non-immunoglobulin secreting SP2/0 myeloma cells according to the hybridoma procedures of Köhler and Milstein (1975) *Nature* 256, 495.

- 15 The presence of anti-CPG2 antibodies was detected by a solid-phase indirect radioimmunoassay. A 1 µg ml⁻¹ solution of CPG2 in 0.05 M phosphate buffer was placed in polyvinyl microtitre plates (100 ng per well), allowed to dry, fixed with methanol and washed with PBS buffer containing a 0.05% Tween and 0.1% bovine serum albumin. Supernatant or purified antibody samples

- 20 were diluted in PBS and incubated in the CPG2 coated microtitre plates (100 µl per well) at 37°C for 4 h and then for 1 h with ¹²⁵I-labelled rabbit anti-mouse IgG. The wells were washed three times with PBS-Tween buffer between each stage and after final washing individual wells were cut and counted in a gamma counter.

25

Example 9: Bispecific antibody reactive against CPG2 and CEA

The hybridoma producing A₅B₇, a monoclonal antibody reactive against CEA

has been disclosed by Harwood *et al* (1986) *Brit. J. Cancer* 54, 75-82, and a

- 30 method of generating a hybridoma producing SB43, a monoclonal antibody

reactive against CPG2 is disclosed in the Examples.

The fusion protocol allows any two antibody-producing hybridomas to be fused and has been disclosed previously (Clark & Waldmann (1987) *J. Natl. Cancer*

- 5 *Inst. 79*, 1393-1401). Briefly, 5×10^6 to 3.5×10^7 cells of one parental hybridoma that have been previously rendered hypoxanthine-/aminopterin/thymidine (HAT) sensitive by selection for a hypoxanthine phosphoribosyltransferase-negative variant were fused at 1 1:1 or 10:1 ratio, using 1 ml of a 50% (wt/vol) solution of polyethylene glycol, with the second
- 10 parental hybridoma cells that had been pretreated with a lethal dose of 10 mM iodoacetamide. Excess polyethylene glycol was washed out and the cells were plated at concentrations from 8×10^5 per ml to 2×10^5 per ml into 24-well plates in bicarbonate-buffered Iscove's modified Dulbecco's medium (IMDM) supplemented with 5% (vol/vol) fetal calf serum. After 24 hr in culture,
- 15 hybrid hybridomas were selected for in medium containing HAT.

Example 10: Reduction of residual enzyme activity at non-tumour sites

It is desirable to inactivate the enzymatic portion of the enzyme-antibody

- 20 conjugate at non-tumour sites, but not at the tumour. One method of achieving this effect is to administer to the patient being treated using the compounds of the invention antibodies raised against the enzyme portion which have been conjugated with galactose residues.

- 25 A monoclonal antibody (SB43) directed at CPG2 inactivates the enzyme. To prevent the antibody inactivating the enzymes at tumour sites additional galactose residues are conjugated to it so that it can still inactivate enzyme in plasma when it is given by intravenous route but the inactivating antibody is rapidly removed from the plasma and galactose receptors on hepatocytes.

The galactosylated SB43 is given to eliminate enzymic activity in plasma and then to give an amount of the non-galactosylated SB43 to inactivate residual enzyme activity in other non-tissues.

- 5 The monoclonal antibody SB43 is galactosylated using the following protocol:
A stock solution of the activated derivative was made up as follows:
Cyanomethyl 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-l-thio- β -D-galactopyranoside (Sigma C-4141) [400 mg] in anhydrous methanol (10 ml) was treated with 5.4 mg of sodium methoxide in 1 ml of anhydrous methanol at room temperature for 48
10 hours. The mixture was kept in a 25 ml Quickfit (Trademark) conical flask fitted with a slightly greased stopper.

A stock solution of SB43 (1.3 mg/ml) was prepared in 0.25 M sodium borate buffer, pH 8.5. Aliquots of the required amount of activated galactosyl
15 derivative (80, 40, 20, 10 μ l) were dispensed into 3 ml glass ampoules and evaporated to a glassy residue in a stream of nitrogen. A solution of the antibody (200 μ g) was added mixed until the residue was dissolved. After 2 hours at room temperature, the solution was dialysed against three changes of PBS.

20

The preparations were scaled up by taking multiples of the volumes mentioned above.

CLAIMS

1. A compound comprising a target cell-specific portion and an inactivating portion capable of converting a substance which, in its native state, is able to inhibit the effect of a cytotoxic agent into a substance which has less effect against said cytotoxic agent.
2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the inactivating portion is an enzymatically active portion.
3. A compound according to either one of Claims 1 and 2 wherein the target cell-specific portion comprises an antibody or part thereof.
4. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein the target cell-specific portion is capable of selectively binding to a cell surface entity.
5. A compound according to Claim 4 wherein the cell surface entity is a tumour-associated antigen.
6. A compound according to Claim 4 wherein the cell surface entity is a cell surface receptor.
7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the substance is folinic acid or an analogue thereof which is capable of inhibiting the effect of a cytotoxic agent which acts on the enzyme dihydrofolate reductase.
8. A compound according to Claim 7 wherein the inactivating portion comprises at least the catalytic portion of carboxypeptidase G2.

9. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 wherein the substance is thymidine or an analogue thereof which is capable of inhibiting the effect of a cytotoxic agent which acts on the enzyme thymidylate synthetase.

5

10. A compound according to Claim 9 wherein the inactivating portion comprises at least the catalytic portion of a thymidine degrading enzyme or thymidine kinase.

10 11. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 wherein the substance is uridine or an analogue thereof which is capable of inhibiting the effect of 5-fluorouracil or an analogue thereof.

12. A compound according to Claim 11 wherein the inactivating portion
15 comprises at least the catalytic portion of a uridine degrading enzyme or of uridine kinase.

13. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the inactivating portion
comprises (1) a target cell specific promoter and (2) a DNA segment
20 encoding a polypeptide capable of converting a substance which, in its native state, is able to inhibit the effect of a cytotoxic agent into a substance which has less effect against the said cytotoxic agent.

14. A compound according to Claim 13 wherein the said DNA segment
25 encodes at least the catalytic portion of carboxypeptidase G2.

15. A compound according to Claim 13 wherein the said DNA segment encodes at least the catalytic portion of a thymidine-degrading enzyme or of thymidine kinase.

16. A compound according to Claim 13 wherein the said DNA segment encodes at least the catalytic portion of a uridine-degrading enzyme or of uridine kinase.
- 5 17. A compound according to any one of Claims 13 to 16 wherein the target cell-specific portion comprises a retrovirus.
- 10 18. A bispecific antibody capable of binding to a target cell-specific antigen and to an inactivating molecule capable of converting a substance which, in its native state, is able to inhibit the effect of a cytotoxic agent into one which has less effect on said cytotoxic agent.
- 15 19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 17 suitable for parenteral administration.
- 20 20. A therapeutic system comprising a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 17, a cytotoxic agent and a substance which in its native state is capable of inhibiting the effect of said cytotoxic agent and which can be converted by said inactivating portion into a substance which has less effect on the cytotoxic agent.
- 25 21. A therapeutic system according to Claim 20 wherein the cytotoxic agent is either a folic acid antagonist and the substance capable of inhibiting the effect of said agent is folinic acid or an analogue thereof or the cytotoxic agent is a thymidine antagonist and the substance capable of inhibiting the effect of said agent is thymidine or an analogue thereof or it is a combination of both said antagonists.
- 30 22. A method of destroying target cells in a host, the method comprising administering to the host (i) a compound according to any one of

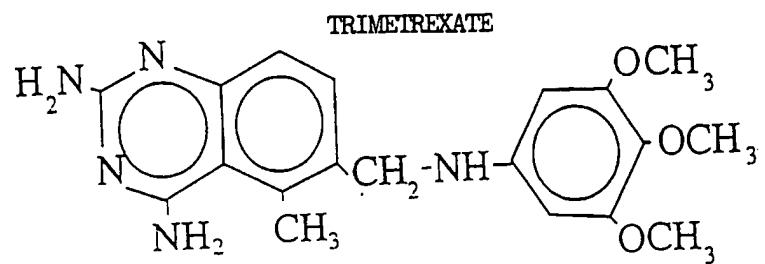
Claims 1 to 17, (ii) a cytotoxic agent and (iii) a substance which in its native state is capable of inhibiting the effect of said cytotoxic agent and which can be converted by said inactivating portion into a substance which has less effect on the cytotoxic agent.

5

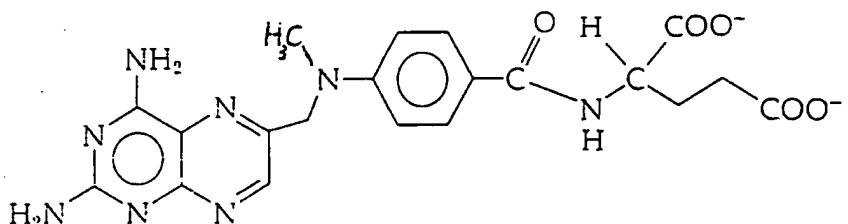
23. A method of treating a mammal harbouring a tumour, the mammal having been prepared for treatment by administering a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 17 and allowing the ratio of compound bound to target cells to compound not bound to the target cells to reach a desired value, the method comprising administering to the mammal a cytotoxic agent and a substance which in its native state is capable of inhibiting the effect of said cytotoxic agent from which a substance which has less effect on the cytotoxic agent can be generated by the inactivating portion of the said compound.

10
15

1/3



METHOTREXATE



FOLINIC ACID

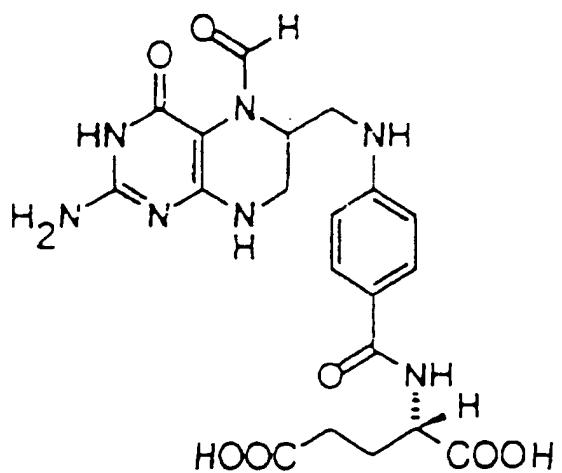
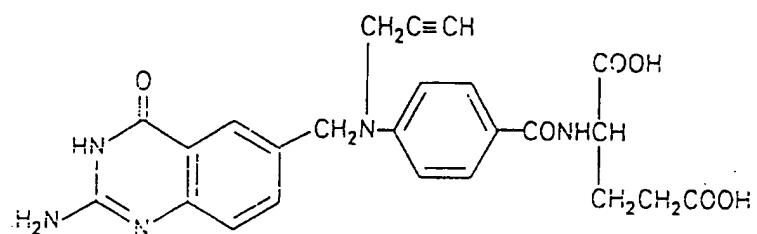


FIGURE 1

2/3

CB 3717



ICI D1694

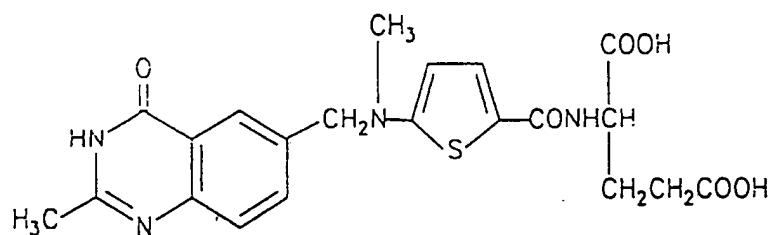


FIGURE 1

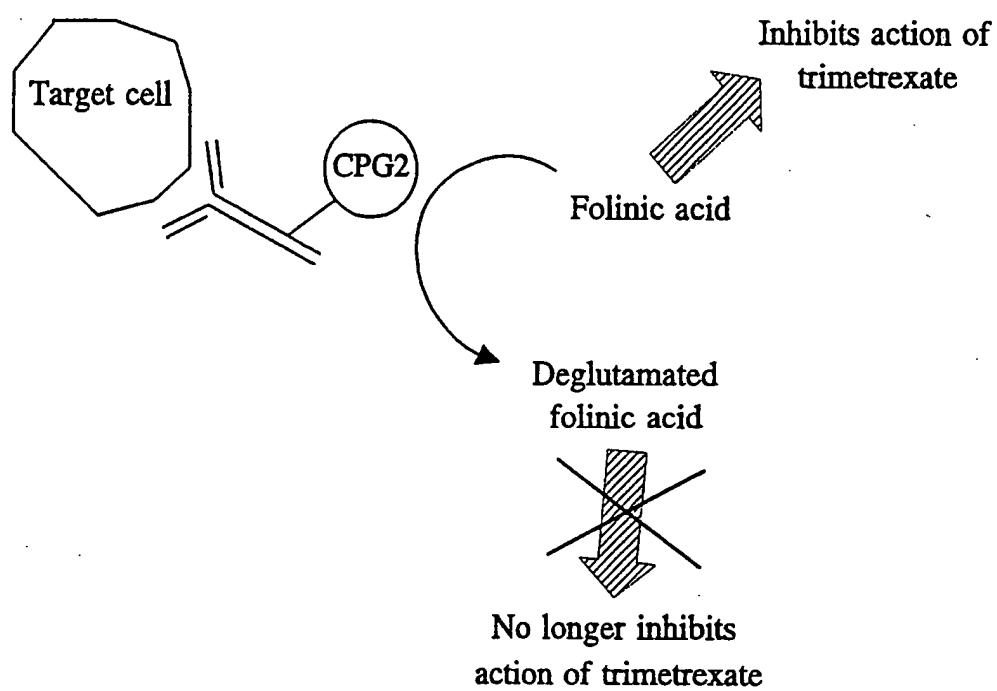


FIGURE 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 93/00039

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all)⁶

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

Int.C1. 5 A61K47/48; C07K15/00

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched⁷

| Classification System | Classification Symbols |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Int.C1. 5 | A61K ; C07K |

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation
to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched⁸III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹

| Category ¹⁰ | Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹² | Relevant to Claim No. ¹³ |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Y | WO,A,8 910 140 (CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN TECHNOLOGY LTD) 2 November 1989 cited in the application see page 15, line 6 - line 14; claims; examples 3,5 --- | 1-23 |
| X,Y | PROC. NAT.ACAD.SCI. USA vol. 80, May 1983, pages 3078 - 3080 G. W. YU ET AL. 'MODEL FOR SPECIFIC RESCUE OF NORMAL HEPATOCYTES DURING METHOTREXATE TREATMENT OF HEPATIC MALIGNANCY.' --- | 1-23 -/- |

¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents :¹⁰

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search

Date of Mailing of this International Search Report

12 MAY 1993

15.05.93

International Searching Authority

Signature of Authorized Officer

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

BERTE M.J.

| III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET) | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| Category ^a | Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to Claim No. |
| Y | STN FILE SERVER & FILE BIOSIS VOL 80 AN=37231 vol. 80, (KARLSRUHE) & DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOCHEMISTRY vol. 4, 1979, pages 683 - 688 H. SAUER ET AL. 'BIOCHEMICAL CONTROL OF THE FOLINIC ACID RESCUE EFFECT AFTER HIGH DOSE METHOTREXATE THERAPY.' --- | 1-23 |
| X | WO,A,9 010 460 (MATSUMURA) 20 September 1990 see page 3, paragraph 3; claims 1-7 --- | 1-23 |
| A | EP,A,0 308 208 (CENTER FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE AND IMMUNOLOGY) 22 March 1989 see page 3, paragraph 2; claims --- | 1-23 |
| A | WO,A,8 807 378 (CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN TECHNOLOGY LTD.) 6 October 1988 cited in the application see claims --- | 1-23 |
| X,P | EP,A,0 506 124 (TANOX BIOSYSTEMS) 30 September 1992 see claims --- | 18-23 |
| X | WO,A,9 109 134 (TAKEDA CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD.) 27 June 1991 see claims ----- | 18 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/GB93/00039

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 1, 2, 3 because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
The definition of the subject matter for which protection is being sought as recited in claim 1 and 18, and subsequent claims is so broad as to comply with article 17(2)(a) of PCT. The search has been performed on the components of these claims and subsequent claims (all specific portion, inactivating portion, substance, cytotoxic agent, inactivating molecule) as described in the examples.
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/210

Continuation of Box I.2.

portion , cytotoxic agents , less toxic substance) as described in the examples (Guidelines Part B Ch. II.7).

b.The claim 24 and 25 are referring to other claims and do not correspond to the demand of Rule 6.2 (a) of the PCT.

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

GB 9300039
SA 68559

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information. 12/05/93

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|---------|------------------|
| WO-A-8910140 | 02-11-89 | EP-A- | 0414741 | 06-03-91 |
| | | JP-T- | 3503898 | 29-08-91 |
| WO-A-9010460 | 20-09-90 | AU-A- | 5349290 | 09-10-90 |
| | | EP-A- | 0464135 | 08-01-92 |
| EP-A-0308208 | 22-03-89 | US-A- | 4859449 | 22-08-89 |
| | | AU-A- | 2223988 | 16-03-89 |
| | | JP-A- | 1221400 | 04-09-89 |
| WO-A-8807378 | 06-10-88 | EP-A- | 0408546 | 23-01-91 |
| EP-A-0506124 | 30-09-92 | AU-A- | 1299292 | 15-10-92 |
| WO-A-9109134 | 27-06-91 | EP-A- | 0505566 | 30-09-92 |